

A Regular Meeting of the Durham County Board of Health, held

February 8, 2001, with the following members present:

William H. Burch, Chairman, Ellen Reckhow, Dr. Philip

McHugh, Dr. William C. Bordley, Dr. Michael O. Royster, Robin

Blanton, Ruth Smullin, Sandra Peele, and Lorraine Salois-Deane.

Excused Absence: William Small and Dr. Sydney Rose.

CALL TO ORDER. Mr. Burch, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER. The Chairman introduced Lorraine S. Salois-Dean, B.S., M.B.A., M.S.P.H., as a newly appointed member to the Board of Health.

Ms. Salois-Dean fills an at-large position and brings extensive experience in the health care field.

The Board welcomed its newest member.

OATHS OF BOARD MEMBER. Janice R. Tice, Notary Public, administered both the Oath to support Constitutions (G.S. 11-7) and the General Oath (G.S. 11-11) to Ms. Salois-Dean.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Dr. Royster made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2001. The motion was seconded by Dr. McHugh and approved unanimously.

Mr. Letourneau, in the Vice-Chairman's absence, presented the dates that were selected for the Finance Committee to meet and review the program budgets. The meetings are scheduled on February 27th and March 1st at 5:00 p.m. in the Health Director's Conference Room.

The Board Chairman concurred with the dates for the budget reviews. The Committee is comprised of Mr. Small, Dr. Royster, and Mr. Blanton.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT. Marcia Robinson, Local Health Administrator, presented a Financial Report to the Board. The report includes revenues through January 31, 2001 and expenditures through December 31, 2000.

Ms. Robinson said the generated revenues are looking more promising than earlier in the year. In the beginning of the year, the revenues were delayed approximately 3 months due to problems the Department experienced with Medicaid. She said that the problem has been resolved. Through January 31st the Department has billed for 55.7% of the total budgeted revenue.

She said if this trend continues that by the end of the year the revenues should total \$4,175,501. This is approximately 95% of the total \$4,382,797 budgeted revenue.

Ms. Robinson said that through December 31st the expenditures are 48.65% of the total budget, which is \$13,300,304. The Department's

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budget relies heavily on lapsed salary money to fund expense lines that were cut or were not adequately funded during last year's budget process. However this year, lapsed salary funds are almost non-existent. She said that hiring for non-revenue generating and non-grant supported vacant positions have been frozen. Non-essential and discretionary purchases have also been suspended.

Mr. Letourneau said that usually there is about \$900,000 at the end of each fiscal year in lapsed salaries from the vacant and recruited positions during the year. He said that this is the first year to his knowledge that there have been no lapsed salary funds. The Department has been successful in its recruitment efforts and the retention of employees has been extremely high.

The Health Director said positions are frozen to make certain that the Department will be able to offset any revenue shortfall that may occur and to ensure that the FY2000-2001 budget is balanced. He said all operations are being closely screened.

In response to Mr. Burch, Ms. Robinson said that the State has notified the Department that timely reporting must be a priority for every month and especially through June 2001. Any state expenditure that has been incurred must be reported immediately so those funds are set aside for that expense.

Ms. Reckhow said the latest news today was that Governor Easley had announced taking certain actions to help correct the shortfall. One of these was reducing assistance to local governments. She said when the intangible tax that was going into local governments was removed it was replaced with reimbursement.

Local Health Directors received E-mail that included an article from the Asheville Citizen-Times. It read in part *...Lawmakers say the deficiency was caused by \$150 million Medicaid shortfall and a battery of unforeseen costs such as Hurricane Floyd clean-up costs, court-mandated tax refunds topping \$1 billion and tax cuts of more than \$1.5 billion that depleted the state's budget.*

Mr. Letourneau said that he has contacted Dennis Harrington, Chief, Local Health Services, Division of Public Health, for information regarding the impact that this shortfall would have on public health.

The Health Director said that the Department's budget figures and program requests would be based on current spending and anticipated no new programming with new or expanded sources of revenue. The Department would assume that it would have the same amount of revenue for the new fiscal year. He said if this changed that the Board of Health would be notified and the Department would take the necessary action that was needed to operate the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Letourneau said that he believed it would be a very difficult period for the state and does not know how long it will take it to recover. He said the Department's Revenue and Expenditure Report looks very positive and it shows that the Department is making every effort to control its spending and to collect its budgeted revenue.

Ms. Reckhow said the Association of County Commissioners chose the *Neighborhood Nurse Project* as one of eleven winning nominees

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for an innovative, creative program. The program will be presented with a certificate at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on March 26th.

THE PERINATAL PERIODS OF RISK PRACTICE (PPOR) COLLABORATIVE. Gayle Harris, Nursing Director, said she would present a new community approach to fetal and infant mortality. She said that Rebecca Freeman, Nutrition Director, and Tekola Fisseha, Health Education Director, were also involved with this project that could cover a 2-year- period if the Department was selected to continue in the collaborative effort.

Ms. Harris presented data that showed 5-year and annual trends of infant mortality for nonwhite and white in Durham County. She said approximately 30 to 37 babies die in Durham County each year. Ms. Harris said this appears to be a small number but infant mortality is a significant health indicator for the community.

Ms. Harris presented W.H.O. Perinatal Periods of Risk Approach: The U.S. Urban Experience to the Board.

For over a decade, the Perinatal Periods of Risk Approach has been used by the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) in developing and developed countries. The approach offers a new way to monitor and investigate feto-infant mortality.

Until recently, the W.H.O. approach has never been formally tested in the U.S. or in a U.S. urban setting. In May 1997, CityMatCH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) partnered to sponsor the Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) Work Group--a multi-city learning cluster of public health practitioners and researchers--to validate and test the feasibility of the approach in a U.S. urban setting. In December 1998, the National March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation joined the sponsoring partnership and became part of the Work Group effort.

The Perinatal Periods of Risk Work Group has five major partners: Public Health Seattle-King County, Boston Public Health Commission, the Hawaii State Department of Health, CityMatCH and the CDC. The project would not have been possible without the strong collaborative efforts of these partners. Although funding was available to support collaboration, communication, and meetings among partners and members, and to support research at the nation level, the time and efforts of the three urban health department collaborators--Seattle, Boston, and Honolulu--was supported primarily by local resources. In addition, many individuals across the country provided input and advice to the project including public health practitioners at local, state and national levels, and academic and government-based researchers.

The Perinatal Periods of Risk Approach was developed by Dr. Brian McCarthy from the W.H.O. Perinatal Collaborative Center at CDC and other W.H.O. colleagues. The intent was to develop a simple method that is based on a strong conceptual prevention framework and can be used by community partners to mobilize the community to prioritize prevention efforts. The approach also forms one of the core components of an ongoing Maternal and Child Health (MCH) surveillance system.

For over a decade, this approach has been used to monitor and investigate feto-infant mortality problems in developing countries. The approach has only recently been used in the U.S. and in urban settings.

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Reducing infant mortality has been a long-standing problem addressed by the public health community, and in recent decades, has been highlighted as a major public health success. So, why a new approach to examine infant mortality?

First, there is currently not a simple, standardized, widely accepted approach for a community to examine infant mortality. This requires communities to find or develop their own approach to examine the problem or to use information readily provided to them.

Second, current approaches do not readily identify potential gaps in the community where further reductions in infant mortality are possible.

Third, current approaches do not directly lead a community to action to target further studies, investigation or preventive activities.

Fourth, current approaches are not simply and easily communicated to community partners and members, inhibiting the community's ability to mobilize to action.

The Perinatal Periods of Risk Approach has 5 major steps:

- 1.) Engage community partners early to gain consensus and support.
 - Improving feto-infant mortality requires mobilization and change in many sectors and by many individuals in the community.
 - Consensus about and ownership of the problem is essential in developing community support for solutions.
 - Monitoring the problem and the solutions and necessary strategy adjustments require effort by many partners.
- 2.) Map feto-infant mortality by birthweight and age at death.
 - Fetal deaths <24 weeks
 - Live births <500 g
 - Spontaneous abortions
 - Induced abortions
- 3.) Focus on reducing the overall feto-infant mortality rate.
 - The overall rate includes fetal deaths, which are often excluded.
 - Cell or group specific mortality rates are calculated such that they add up to the total feto-infant mortality rate.
 - Excess mortality rates and numbers are also calculated such that they relate to the total feto-infant rate.
- 4.) Examine the "opportunity gap" between population groups.
 - Identify the potential for reduction in the community.
 - Decide on internal reference groups for comparison.
 - Consider external reference groups for comparison.
 - Calculate excess mortality rates by components.
- 5.) Target investigations and prevention efforts on the "gap".
 - Shift effort and attention to the group(s) that contributes most to the gap.
 - Conduct further studies mortality reviews on the group(s) that contributes to the gap.
 - Examine current prevention efforts for the group(s) that contributes to the gap.

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In summary, PPOR is a straightforward approach that can be easily used by communities nationwide. The approach can readily identify gaps in the community and among various sub-populations. Furthermore, the approach can target resources for further study and prevention activities, and mobilize communities to action in preventing feto-infant mortality.

Ms. Harris said the Department's team includes a UNC-Ph.D. student in Epidemiology who will analyze the data. The State Center for Health Statistics has assigned a statistician to pull the information together. The Health Department will be submitting its proposal with some basic data in a few weeks.

Mr. Letourneau said the Department's involvement is due to Gayle, Becky, and Tekola. They took the initiative and made a contact with CDC and are being very aggressive in trying to find a different way to look at infant mortality. He said when viewing the history of infant mortality it always pointed to early prenatal care as the answer to reducing rates. A new community approach is necessary for the Department to come up with better answers.

There was Board discussion regarding the value of folic acid in looking at preconception health issues.

Ms. Rebecca Freeman, Nutrition Director, said there are posters in the DATA buses encouraging women to take a supplement with folic acid daily. The posters are also in waiting areas in Lincoln Community Health Center, the Health Department, at Duke and in the neighborhood nurse offices. She said wider distribution is being planned with Nutrition, Nursing, and Health Education working together on the project.

The Chairman thanked Gayle for the presentation.

Mr. Letourneau said the FY2001-02 budget would be presented to the Board at the March 8th meeting. He said he did not anticipate any changes in program expansion or enhancement from the last budget year.

The Health Director provided each Board member a copy of the FY00-01 Quarterly Activity Summary. He said the summary data is process oriented. The Department is meeting its targets in volume of services it provides.

Mr. Letourneau reported Kim Walsh, MD, has been recruited as Durham County Health Department's new Medical Director. Dr. Walsh comes to Durham from her current position as Medical Director of the Alamance County Health Department where she has spent the past eight and one-half years. Dr. Walsh holds a BA in English from Dartmouth College, a MD from Duke University Medical School, and a MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health. Dr. Walsh completed her residency training in Family Medicine at the Duke-Watts Family Medicine Program in 1991 and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice.

He said Dr. Walsh is an excellent candidate and physicians in the area have said that the Department could not have done better. She will begin work on March 1st. The Department is very excited to have her on board.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT.

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ADMINISTRATION

Vital Records

- The Processing Unit Supervisor, Karen Perry, now has an office in Vital Records. Karen will spend part of her time in the Business Office and Vital Records.
- Pre-numbered forms have been ordered for birth certificates.

Central Intake

- One response to RFQ for intake renovation was received. A meeting with Yongue Architects has been held to review his proposal to design and supervise the project.
- Patient appointments are now entered into the AS400 system in all areas, with the exception of Nutrition. Glenda Reed, Supervisor in Central Intake, is working with Michelle Easterling, Nutrition Supervisor, to get their appointments into the system.
- Reclassification of the Lead Worker position to Patient Relations Representative IV has been approved. Reclassification of the Lead Worker position to Medical Records Assistant IV was not approved. Tony Noel, in Human Resources will work with Marcia Robinson and Karen Perry to resubmit this request in a manner that will be approved by the State.

Billing

- Angela Cuthbertson and Jacqueline Joseph attended an OASIS Medicare workshop in November. The workshop provided OASIS software update and information on the new PPS (Perspective Payment System) for the Home Health Medicare billing.

Other Activities

- Jacqueline Joseph, Karen Perry and Marcia Robinson attended the Business Writing workshop.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

- All EH staff attended the division retreat on January 24th held at the Community Building/Rollingview Marina State Park. The setting provided a relaxed atmosphere for everyone to participate in program planning and development.
- The Division's newest member, Marie Miller, began in November 2000 as a Processing Assistant III is providing extremely valuable clerical/operational assistance. It is certainly now much easier to maintain front-line coverage without having to pull Environmental Health Specialists away from regular field duties.
- Many of our walk-in clients bring their children with them; therefore we have provided a box of toys at the front desk to occupy the young ones while the adults transact business. The only problem seems to be that the parents have a hard time encouraging their kids to leave with them.

General Inspections Section

- Environmental Health received information early one afternoon that foodservice facilities at South Square Mall were without water. Marvin Hobbs and Marc Meyer immediately went to the site to

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investigate. The interruption in water service was confirmed, but all the food stands within the food court were continuing to operate. Permits for these eight food stands were immediately suspended. Staff remained on site until water under pressure was restored. Marvin and Marc ensured that the establishments remained closed and also eliminated delays for reopening. Only one foodservice establishment in the mall did the “right thing” and ceased business upon losing water service, Piccadilly Cafeteria. Congratulations and appreciation go to this establishment for putting the safety and health of potential customers first.

- Phil Woodell continues to provide ongoing education/training in proper sanitation practices for day care teachers and workers in collaboration with the Durham Day Care Council.

Water & Waste Section

- Through the efforts of, Environmental Health Specialist Andrew Morgan has updated the list of “Registered Septic Tank Contractors” for the area and the type of sewage disposal systems that they will install. This list will be provided to clients who need references for legitimate contractors. The list will be updated annually.
- Robert Brown, while fulfilling the role as Water & Waste Supervisor, continues to maintain his registration as a “Licensed Soil Scientist”. The continuing education provided by the Soil Science Society that he attended also qualifies as required continuing education for registration as a “Registered Sanitarian”.
- Environmental Health Program Specialist Daryl Poe was busy in January permitting and inspecting year round public swimming pools. Daryl has also updated and revised the applications for swimming pool plan review and for public swimming pool operator permits.

HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

Family Connections Team

- Jennifer Woodward provided several Family Life Education classes at Durham School of the Arts, Githens Middle School, Jordan High School and CIS Academy. Topics covered included tobacco education and self-esteem.
- School health educators were invited to Omuteko Gwamaziima Charter school to provide personal hygiene sessions for third and fifth grade students for the first time.
- Jennifer Woodward attended the Youth Risk Behavior Survey training. The survey will be conducted at Brogden and Jordan Middle schools. Jennifer and the Safe and Drug Free School Coordinator will conduct the survey.
- Teen Outreach Program sessions and service learning are continuing and going well at most sites. TOP training was provided to the new health educators before they were assigned to their schools. Several AD-HOC committee meetings were held this month at Hillside High School, CIS Academy and Neal Middle School. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss program progress and deal with perceived problems.

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- The Baby Think It Over (BTIO) baby simulator program has been completed at Chewning Middle School and CIS Academy. The program is currently provided at Githens Middle School. The Empathy Belly, a pregnancy simulator is now offered at Chewning. After wearing the belly for about five hours, many students were ready to take them off. Students reported that they did not know a woman could gain about thirty pounds during pregnancy. Some students did not like their appearance while wearing the Empathy Belly.
- A TOP Advisory Board meeting was held January 18 at Githens Middle School. The board had the opportunity to observe 7 grade students conducting a service learning project. The board also discussed media coverage for TOP including newsletters, video productions, and teen pregnancy commercials. Reginald Smith from WRAL-FM is looking into offering TOP students the opportunity to do a 30-second Public Service Announcement.
- Annette provided a two-day TOP training for the AMW Foundation in Raleigh, NC.
- Twenty-eight T.E.A.S. participants graduated on January 13, 2001. A total of 150 people attended the graduation ceremony held at the Armory. T.E.A.S. participants will be surveyed in February for next year's upcoming plans.
- The Family Connections Team provided a total of 119 sessions for 2,367 participants.

Health Promotion & Wellness

- Health Promotion & Wellness provided three of five work-site smoking cessation (Breath of Life) sessions at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Negotiations are underway to provide a six-week supply of nicotine replacement patches for employees at the EPA who complete the smoking cessation sessions.
- Willa Robinson provided a breast cancer seminar at the John Umstead Substance Abuse Center. This will be the first of a series of monthly education and awareness seminars.
- Three Cervical Cancer workshops were presented at TROSA. Several women reported making Pap smear screening appointments as a result of the workshops.
- The Gun Safety Team began strategic planning for the upcoming fiscal year. Team members have been invited to present Durham County's Gun Safety initiative at the National Board of Health Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Durham County and Boulder, Colorado are the only two locales that have Gun Safety initiatives.
- The Domestic Violence Task Force has become a part of the Durham Alliance Against Domestic Violence. Meetings will be held quarterly beginning February 2001. This will enable agencies and community members to address domestic violence issues without duplicating efforts.
- Health Promotion Team provided 26 presentations reaching 745 participants in January.

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Communicable Disease Education

- Constance Copeland lead a home-talk session for people living with HIV and AIDS at Durham Manor Rest Home. She also conducted two Kaleidoscope Peer Education Program training sessions.
- Carlotta Lee conducted STD training for Planned Parenthood's Teen Voices peer education program. She will also work with the NCCU STD/HIV Peer Education Program to promote National Condom Awareness Week. Carlotta and Dr. Jolly, NCCU Professor, are developing an EPI Info program for the NCCU STD/HIV Peer Education Program.
- Caressa McLaughlin facilitated two meetings with the Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) Advisory Council. The group discussed ways to plan, implement, and evaluate STD/HIV health education programs designed to reach racial/ethnic MSM in diverse community settings. Caressa and Kat Turner facilitated a planning meeting for a community forum addressing HIV/AIDS in African American communities.
- Kat Turner met several times with El Centro Hispano's new STD/HIV outreach staff to coordinate education and outreach efforts. She also led training on STDs and HIV/AIDS for nursing students at the VA Hospital.
- Project StraighTalk is helping the Duke and UNC Infectious Disease Clinics plan a teen HIV forum on March 22. A nationally known HIV-positive teen will be the guest speaker.
- Kat attended the monthly NC Syphilis Elimination Project meeting in Raleigh on January 17.
- Corinne Alvino, Project STAND's LPN, offered syphilis education to all incoming jail inmates and tested 133 women and men in January.

NUTRITION DIVISION

DINE For LIFE

- WG Pearson elementary teacher used DINE lessons to reinforce her class in using their new skills to select foods from each of the food groups while eating at a restaurant buffet. Another teacher told the school nutritionist, "You are really making an impact. I hear the kids talking about the nutrition classes at lunch."
- EK Powe elementary cafeteria manager reported a 25 carton per day increase in skim milk sales after a calcium/low-fat milk lesson.
- At CC Spaulding, a teacher reported that following their calcium lesson; her students asked the cafeteria staff when they will start selling the "purple" (skim) milk.
- At Watts elementary following a lesson on calcium and milk, kindergartners began chanting, "Thanks Ms. Dairy, that was a really good lesson!"
- At Fayetteville Street elementary, a kindergarten class correctly answered questions about the food groups and recommended daily servings--even after a 3-week break between lessons!

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- At Spaulding elementary, students are asking if Produce Man is coming back this year. When told that he wouldn't be visiting this year, they responded, "If he can't come, can you at least come and teach our class?"
- At Fayetteville Street elementary, the cafeteria manager has started ordering skim milk after requests from children and a recent meeting with the school nutritionist. She reported to the nutritionist that nearly all the skim milk sells and reduced fat milk sales have increased as well.

A sampling of activities:

- Taught 274 nutrition education sessions in 10 elementary schools during the months of November, December and January. Taste testing of foods related to the lessons accompanied more than 78 of the interactive sessions.
- Participated in an evaluation of DINE for LIFE in schools the Orlena-Hawks Puckett Institute. The North Carolina Nutrition Network commissioned the evaluation of all North Carolina food stamp education programs to determine the best practices for reaching the target population.
- Planned nutrition classes for the Omuteko Gwamaziima Charter School-mentoring program. The lesson included taste-testing of foods indigenous to Africa and focused on the basics of healthy eating such as the food pyramids guidelines.
- Chaired a group meeting at Burton elementary regarding the nutrition module of CDC's School Health Index and its relationship to environmental issues at the school.
- A DINE for LIFE lesson at Fayetteville Street elementary was videotaped by NCSU Communications as well as interviews with the Principal, students and Stephanie Howard for use in "Inside Edition" of the State Cooperative Extension Program show and in a North Carolina Nutrition Network public relations video.

Breakfast Promotion, March 2001

- Displayed promotional banners and boards for the Breakfast campaign in 5 elementary schools. Promotional materials will go up in at least 8 more schools in February.
- Completed 196 breakfast surveys of students at Lowe's Grove and Chewing middle schools. More than 40% of the students reported not eating breakfast on the day of the survey.
- Conducted 3 focus groups with children in three elementary schools to test and refine the target message for the 2001 Breakfast Promotion.
- Finalized a partnership with the Herald Sun to incorporate nutrition information and activities for the March "Newspapers in Education" feature, which are used in classrooms.
- Developed a partnership with the National Dairy Council to promote National School Breakfast Week and National Nutrition Month. They will contribute \$500 toward the "Newspapers in Education" series and

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also bring the Milk Mustache Tour to Durham schools participating in DINE in the fall of 2001.

- Conducted meetings w/ principals, cafeteria managers, PE teachers, PTA members, etc., to engage their support and participation in the Breakfast Promotion activities.
- Developed promotional packets and materials for distribution to teachers, parents and students.
- Presented breakfast information to 4 classes of TOP students in service learning, who will in turn “teach” students in elementary and middle schools for Breakfast Promotion. Health Education Division coordinated these sessions.

Promoting Wellness in Adults/Families

- Conducted 109 surveys of adults to use as a basis for planning and delivering an effective social marketing campaign of nutrition/physical activity messages.
- Conducted nutrition classes in Few Gardens and in a mental health day program.
- Participated in WD Hill Recreation Center’s health fair with a 5-A-Day message.
- Conducted a supermarket tour at Lowes Foods, which focused on how to stretch the food dollar while selecting foods to get the greatest nutritional benefit for the family. The Department of Social Services assisted in coordination of the session.
- Assisted in the taping of a video on folic acid produced by the March of Dimes. Health Department Nurse, Ann Mulligan, was interviewed for the video.

Nutrition Services for Individuals

- A 20 year old female commented that she had begun taking a multiple vitamin daily because she saw a sign in the Health Department that a daily multiple vitamin with folic acid prevents birth defects.
- A Durham pediatrician commented that the Health Department dietitians had helped his patients more than any other dietitians his patients had seen.
- A nurse reported that the grandmother of a child who the nurse referred to the Health Department was very pleased with the services her grandchild received from the nutritionist.
- Wellness in Children received 44 new referrals, provided 148 counseling sessions and 143 consultations.
- Provided 181 counseling sessions for infant mortality prevention and 73 consultations, screened 1,396 for nutritional risk.
- Received 52 new referrals, provided 142 counseling sessions and 16 consultations for Adult Wellness.

Staffing Update

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- We currently have 2 vacancies in DINE for LIFE. Our community nutritionist left in December after only 9 months with the Department. Alesa Eanes, RD, filled our part-time child care consultant position in January.
- Tracey Bates, MPH, RD, LDN was elected president-elect of the Durham-Chapel Hill Dietetic Association.
- An NCCU dietetic intern began a five-week rotation with the Nutrition Division.

Continuing Education

- Staff took advantage of two webcasts: “Food Safety: A Challenge for Everyone in Public Health” and “The Surgeon General’s Initiative Toward an Action Plan on Overweight & Obesity.”
- New staff without formal training in public health attended “Introduction to Principles and Practices of Public Health.”
- Staff participated in meetings with more than 15 state and county organizations/agencies for coordination and planning.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

BCCCP/Adult Health Screening Program

- 9 women were screened in the BCCCP Program
- 181 women were screened for domestic violence
- 382 persons were screened for hypertension
- 5 persons were screened for diabetes

Communicable Diseases

Screening

- 574 persons screened in STD Clinic
- 306 persons screened for HIV: 221 persons tested at Durham County Health Department; 70 tested at Lincoln Community Health Center; 15 tested at Durham County Jail. There were 2 positive tests.

Reportable Diseases (Other than STDs)

- 3 Salmonellosis
- 4 Hepatitis B (Carrier)
- 5 Rabies Bite Investigations
- 1 Tuberculosis Case
- 3 Enterococci, Vancomycin-resistant

Outbreaks

None

Pharmacy

Prescriptions filled: 3,232

Laboratory

Tests performed: 5,379

Activities of Staff

- Pam Weaver and Hattie Wood attended the Regional TB Consultant Meeting in Raleigh.

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- The Durham County Health Department received its annual, “Age Appropriate Immunization Rate Assessment”. The overall rate improved from 25% to 55%. This number reflects the actual number of children 24 months of age with documentation of 4 DTP’s, 3 Polio, and 1 MMR entered in the North Carolina Immunization Registry.
- The laboratory participated in a Federal CLIA review. Results of the review are pending.
- Performed a third series of TB skin testing related to the active case in a student at Southern High School. No positives were reported for this cohort.

NURSING DIVISION

Family Planning

During the month of January, there were 86 initial and 163 annual encounters in the Family Planning Clinic. These compares to 47 initial and 66 annual encounters in January of 2000, a month with record snow falls.

Maternal Health

- In December, 69 new patients came to the OB Clinic. Forty-six percent (46%) were Hispanic. In January, 96 new patients presented for care. Fifty-one percent (51%) were Hispanic. There is currently a waiting period of 10-14 days before new patients can be seen.
- Wanda Thompson, RN WHNP presented an in-service program to the OB Clinic staff on "Biophysical Profile of the Fetus and the Implications for Performing a Non-stress Test."
- The maternity care coordinators are exploring possibilities of computerized charting.
- Maternal Health staff collected monetary donations to sponsor a single mother and three children during the Christmas holiday. The family received educational toys, warm clothing and food.

Child Health

Lead

- Lead Nurse Consultant, Shirley Holloway, RN, increased her outreach efforts to local medical providers. She received good response from them. As a result, lead testing appears to be increasing, although the most recent quarterly state statistics have not been received. Shirley is also getting regular inquiries about lead poisoning and testing through phone calls and families coming into the office.

Child Care

- Kathy Jackson, RN, presented at the “Day for Day Care” workshop sponsored by Child Care Services Associates for child care providers across the state on January 27th. The title of her presentation was “Creating a Healthy Environment.”
- The entire staff attended the “Healthy Child Care North Carolina Conference in Raleigh on January 23rd and 24th.

Linkages

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- Contracted Spanish interpreter services began in January. This addition to the program was funded by Durham's Partnership for Children. The change will allow staff to provide services to Spanish-speaking families. It has led to substantial outreach into the Hispanic Community. Veronica Gray, RN is enrolling 2-4 families per week at the Maternity Clinic at Lincoln Community Health Center. In addition, visits are made to El Centro Hispano to provide information and recruit families for the program.

Miscellaneous Activities

- Sue Guptill, RN, MSN presented at the Virginia Eastern Region Baby Care Retreat in Norfolk, VA on January 19th. Her presentation was entitled "Integrating Home Visiting Programs in the Community." This engagement provided a good opportunity to compare notes and share ideas with other Public Health and non-profit providers of home-visiting services for infants and young children.
- Sue Guptill attended a 12-hour workshop on implementing Special Needs Shelters during disasters in Kinston, NC on January 29th and 30th. This workshop provided very useful information and written materials. Durham was the only county represented by employees from the Health Department, Department of Social Services, and Emergency Management.

Home Health

- Openings for referrals are available for in-home aide services.
- There were nine new home health referrals in December. Five referrals were declined due to staff workloads (including patient care and paperwork).
- It is anticipated the agency will begin accepting referrals again soon. Limiting new referrals allowed staff to provide services and complete the required paperwork closer to the established timeframes. Vicki Watkins, Team Leader returned to work full time after being out on extended sick leave. Her return will provide additional time for nursing visits and the capacity to accept new referrals. Additional staffing options to increase program capacity are being explored.
- Ann Best, RN is interested in testing the use of a laptop while making home visits to determine if it will improve staff efficiency. Claire Hammitt, Home Health supervisor, is working with the developer of Barnestorm, the software used by the Program, to set up the laptop so that the test-period can start very soon.
- The new Medicare Payment System still has some systems problems to resolve. The most recent problems resulted in the end-of-episode payments being delayed. There are also some problems in house with sending requests for anticipated payments (RAPs) according to schedule. Claire Hammitt is working on resolving these problems.
- Martha Simpson, Social Worker, served as the moderator for a senior citizens workshop focusing on "End of Life Issues" held at the Durham County Library on January 24th. There was good participation from the seniors and the presenters.
- Martha Simpson also serves on the DICCER committee that is planning the Senior Games this spring.

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- Martha arranged sponsorship for ten home health patients and their families for Thanksgiving dinner and eighteen patients and their families for Christmas gifts.
- Anne Best, RN, Leslie Hagarty, RN, Rochelle Talley, LPT and Martha Simpson, MSW were complimented by a patient's family member for showing "tremendous dedication, compassion, and professionalism." A copy of the letter was forwarded to the County Manager's office for nomination for the "Anchor Award" for outstanding customer service.

Miscellaneous Activities

- Home Health staff answer many telephone calls on a daily basis. Callers request general health-related information as well as information about the availability of services and explanations about the new Medicare Home Health benefits. Recently, a physician called for assistance in establishing services for his wife, a recent stroke victim who became ill while traveling abroad, outside the Medicare coverage network. This physician was told that Medicare would cover his wife's care for rehabilitation for a maximum of 21 days only if he had a plan for her care at the end of that time. However, no one provided any assistance to help him navigate his way through this new life experience. Someone suggested that he call the Department's staff for guidance. Staff spent time with him, as with other County residents, exploring his options for services and home adaptations to accommodate his wife's disability.
- The Health Department, through state mandate, is responsible for health-related consultation and supervision of Adult Day Health Facilities within the County. This is an unfunded state mandate. Vickie Watkins, Team Leader, has been assigned the responsibility of this mandate. She will rely on a state manual and upcoming training to guide her the review process. Her first assignment is to work with the Department of Social Services to provide consultation/supervision for an adult day health facility scheduled to open in Oldham Towers on East Main Street.

Jail Health

- Coordination between the Durham County Health Department and the Durham County Sheriff's Department made it possible to purchase a much-needed updated medical record filing system. The system is a mechanically assisted moveable shelving system with double-faced, moveable carriages. When installed, the system will provide 192% more filing space. Delivery and installation should be completed by the end of March.
- Pharmacist Lee Werley and Nursing Supervisor Becky Scaggs are working diligently to prepare for the implementation of a new medication dispensing system by the beginning of March. This cart-based system will change the current way of dispensing medications, will eliminate waste and reduce the likelihood of medication errors. The system is very similar to one used by the N.C. Department of Corrections.
- Durham County Detention Services and Nursing Division staffs have been actively involved in The N.C. Syphilis Elimination Project. A full time nurse hired through a supplemental staffing agency began

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September 18, 2000. In January, 120 inmates were educated about and screened for Syphilis. Two positive test results were received.

School Health

- School Nurse Mary Hoose, Southern High School, with the help of School Nurse Supervisor Peg Wolfe, TB Clinic Team Leader Hattie Wood, and TB Nurse Earline Parker placed and read 26 follow up tuberculin skin tests for Southern students who had been exposed to an active case during the fall. No additional positive skin tests were found. Eleven additional students were absent and still need follow up.
- Freda Johnson attended a workshop on "Legal Issues for Nurses" on December 14th.
- Janice Anderson attended the presentation of the "NC School Asthma Survey Results" in Raleigh on January 9th.
- Jennifer Mauch is attending the series "Introduction to the Principles and Practices of Public and Public Health Nursing."
- Nursing Supervisor Peg Wolfe and School Nurse Freda Johnson met three times with Deborah McNeil, Lincoln Community Health Center Pediatric Nurse Manager, and Wendy Ross-Vavrousek, DPS School Psychologist and 504 coordinator for Durham Public Schools. The purpose of the meetings was to develop a process, including forms, for Pearson Lincoln Link, a cooperation plan between WG Pearson Elementary School and Lincoln Community Health Center to help students with health concerns get fast service.
- Peg Wolfe attended two regular meeting of the School Wellness Partnership.
- Aline Taniguchi, a graduate student who analyzed the second year of school staff data from the Asthma Management Project, made a presentation to the school nurses on January 17th. Her findings showed that knowledge and comfort levels in managing asthma concerns in school children were significantly increased in teachers participating in the experimental group. Two strengths of the study included the ability to randomize schools into experimental and control groups and the high retention rate (91%) of the school staff participants. Additional analysis of the project is underway.
- Clementine Buford, a charter school nurse mentor, attended a mentor training on February 7th at Camp Caraway.
- Janice Anderson made a presentation on our Asthma Management Project to the Alamance County Asthma Coalition on February 7th.
- Peg Wolfe coordinated an orientation session for nine nursing students from NCCU, UNC, and UNC-G assigned to the Health Department for their clinical rotation in Public Health. Thirteen additional students assigned to other sites in the community also attended.

Neighborhood Nurses

Few Gardens

- Kerry Smith, RN had 91 encounters in December and 169 in January.

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- Twenty-three residents are participating in the Cervical Cancer Prevention workshop. Three of the six planned workshops have been well received and attended in January. CDC funds this workshop through North Carolina Central University.
- The “Save Our Sisters” breast cancer workshop was cancelled in December. It will be rescheduled. Other aspects of the Lay Health Advisor training continue.
- Kerry continues to provide a variety of services for the residents. She assists with making medical appointments and arranging transportation, assessing resident’s medical needs, following up with medication teaching, and providing education about contraceptives, hypertension and a myriad of other conditions and services.
- Four newborn and 3 postpartum visits were made in December and January.

Fayetteville Street

- Ann Milligan, RN and Joyce Snipes, CHA of Fayetteville Street had 375 encounters in December and 301 in January.
- Ann and Joyce are excited about beginning on-site HIV testing and counseling. Supplies are being obtained and policies are being written. Ann has been collaborating with the HIV Early Intervention clinic to use the established policies as a guide in writing policies for the Fayetteville setting.
- Two newborn and three postpartum assessments were completed in January.
- Joyce assisted in recruiting seven females to participate in a research focus group designed to address why older African American women do not get health screens or take part in studies. Staff and students at NCCU are conducting the study. Joyce participated in a survey from health education on older African American women's health issues.
- Ann made fifteen home visits to children with fevers, diarrhea and vomiting, with one of them having a diagnosis of influenza. Five other home visits were made to families who had babies with fevers and ear discomfort. These children were referred to their primary care providers. Four were diagnosed with ear infections.
- Hand washing classes were taught to neighborhood day care workers.

Miscellaneous

- Peg Wolfe and Gayle Harris attended a meeting on January 18th with Duke University Health System, the Health Department, and Durham Public Schools to continue planning for the Dental Van.
- Gayle Harris attended the regularly scheduled meetings of the United Way Seniors Issue Team/Keeping In Step, Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Committee, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, Youth Management Committee (ages 6-12), Syphilis Elimination Project, Durham County Health Choice Coalition, and the Triangle United Way Health Choice Coalition.

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- Tekola Fisseha and Gayle Harris attended the first meeting to the Perinatal Periods of Risk Practice Collaborative in Atlanta, Georgia December 13th and 14th.
- Tekola Fisseha and Gayle Harris presented the Perinatal Periods of Risk Approach to the Health Committee of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People on January 16th. The model was also presented to the Infant Mortality Reduction Task Force on January 23rd.
- Gayle Harris was appointed Planning Committee Chairman for the Annual Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference sponsored by CityMatCH, CDC, and MCHB. She attended the first planning meeting in Nashville, Tennessee January 12th - 14th.

DENTAL DIVISION

- Dr. McIntosh is back full time after successful surgery in December.
- The Dental Division continues to participate with Duke University Health System and Durham Public Schools in the design of the mobile dental van and implementation of mobile dental services at DPS elementary and middle schools.
- The Division is considering the application of two dentists who are not licensed to practice in NC yet but who are seeking to work in the dental clinic under a provisional permit. (The dental clinic has been designated by the Board of Dental Examiners as a site where individuals may practice dentistry under the supervision of a licensed dentist.)
- During January, the clinic treated 125 children completing 540 procedures. Numbers were low because there was only 1 dentist working for most of the month.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- Attended six Head Start facility-planning meetings as Chairman of Durham's Partnership for Children.
- Attended the "After School Academy" planning meeting chaired by Dr. Leroy Walker. Future meetings will be arranged as funding opportunities to support After School Academy programming are identified.
- Attended three United Way Health Issues Team meetings in preparation for the 2001 fund allocation process.
- Chaired Durham's Partnership for Children Executive Committee and full board meetings during November, December, and January.
- Attended the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors Annual Meeting.
- Attended the "State of Durham's Children Breakfast" partially sponsored by Durham's Partnership for Children.

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- Attended the November, December, and January Youth Coordinating Board Meetings in my capacity as Chairman of Durham's Partnership for Children.
- Attended several meetings of the Mobile Dental Clinic organizing group in order to plan the configuration and implementation of mobile dental services at Durham elementary and middle schools.
- Attended two Elder Health Services Steering Committee meetings. The purpose of this committee is to develop a medical service delivery model that will facilitate access to health care for our community's elder citizens to improve their quality of life.
- Attended the Duke's Promising Practices Steering Committee meeting.
- Attended the Syphilis Elimination "Project Stand" meeting.
- Met with Mike Ruffin, Durham County's new Manager, to orient Mr. Ruffin to the issues and concerns of the Health Department as he begins his tenure.
- Hosted the Durham County Health Department's annual Holiday Luncheon. Mike Fuquay, a long time Health Department staff person, received the Employee of the Quarter Award to a standing ovation from the staff, retirees, and Board of Health members.
- Attended three Healthy Carolinians meetings to review year to date activities and the community health assessment summary in preparation for presentation to Durham's Board of County Commissioners.
- Attended the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors Policy & Planning Committee Meeting to discuss the Association's legislative agenda items for the upcoming long session of the NC General Assembly. A high priority agenda item is the development of a statewide solution to the ever-growing problem of uncompensated care to medically indigent residents.
- Attended the Opening Ceremony Designating 2001 as the "Year of Durham Regional Hospital" celebrating the Durham Regional Medical Center's 25 Anniversary.
- Met with architect Joseph Yongue to discuss his proposal to design and manage the upcoming renovation to the Health Department's patient reception area.
- Met with researchers Kathryn Pollak and Colleen McBride to discuss the potential for the Durham County Health Department to participate in a pregnancy smoking intervention study involving nicotine replacement.

The Health Director said the next challenge for the Department is to recruit for a Dental Director. Dr. Theodore Brooks is retiring effective March 1st. Dr. Miriam McIntosh will assume the Dental Director position and the Department will recruit for a Dentist to practice from the dental van that will be stationed at the elementary schools.

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The Board congratulated Dr. Brooks and wished him well in all his future endeavors.

Dr. McHugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Royster seconded the motion and it was approved with no opposition.

Approved 3/8/01

William H. Burch, R.Ph.
Chairman

Brian E. Letourneau, MSPH
Health Director